United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/857
28 March 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council, in Presidential statement, agrees with Secretary-General's assessment of situation in Cyprus; urges all concerned to cooperate fully to resolve outstanding issues.

- Japan donates about $10 million for emergency assistance to Palestine refugees in West Bank and Gaza Strip; contributes also to trust fund set up to deal with environmental damage in Gulf region.

- Conference on Disarmament ends first part of 1991 session in Geneva.

- European Economic Community pledges over $2 million to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) assistance to women and children in Iraq.

- Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator reports 100,000 cholera cases in Peru and 609 deaths so far.

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The President of the Security Council, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), in a statement issued this evening on behalf of Council members following consultations, said members had considered the Secretary-General's report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus and were unanimous in their full support of his current efforts.

Council members, the statement said, agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment of the current situation, including the main issues that remained to be clarified before an outline could be completed, and encouraged him to continue his efforts as he had proposed, by making suggestions to facilitate the discussions.

The Presidential statement said the members reaffirmed Security Council resolution 649 (1990) and the mandate for the Secretary-General's mission of good offices as set out in Council resolution 367 (1975); and recalled that resolution 649 reaffirmed resolution 367 as well as the Council's support for

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For information media—not an official record

the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements between the leaders of the two communities. This, the members said, should continue to serve as the basis for the Secretary-General's effort to arrive at an agreed outline.

Council members urged all concerned to act in a manner consistent with resolution 649, to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and to continue the discussions that have taken place over the past few months in order to resolve without delay the outstanding issues.

They welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to submit a further report by early July on his effort to arrive at an agreed outline of an overall settlement, and said they would decide, in the light of the situation at that time, on any further measures that might be necessary.

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The Government of Japan has donated about $10 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The largest single contribution to UNRWA's emergency programme in 1991, the funds have been provided for assistance to Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an official statement issued in Tokyo, the Government of Japan said the donation was a humanitarian gesture aimed at helping Palestinians in the occupied territories, who were facing hardships as a consequence of the Gulf crisis.

The UNRWA had made a special appeal for financial support for the Agency's emergency programme in the occupied territories at the outbreak of the Gulf war. The Agency has been distributing food to almost 300,000 Palestinian households in the West Bank and Gaza in response to the difficulties caused by the disruption of economic activities in the area and the loss of remittance from the Gulf.

In a separate development, Japan announced today its decision to contribute $1.11 million to a special trust fund set up by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mostafa K. Tolba, to deal with the environmental damage caused by the Kuwait/Iraq conflict.

Japan is the first to contribute to this fund, created to implement the Action Plan put together at a meeting of representatives of United Nations agencies in Geneva earlier this month.

The trust fund, effective until 31 December 1992, will finance, among other things, multi-disciplinary team surveys to provide, analyse and evaluate data, and the establishment of a computerized database required for the assessment of the environmental damage in the region.

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In Geneva today, the Conference on Disarmament concluded the first part of its 1991 annual session. The second part of the session will begin on 14 May, presided over by Serguei Batsanov (Soviet Union).

Addressing the meeting, the representative of Zaire, Mantuba-Ngimbi Mak, said it was time for the Conference to be flexible with regard to enlarging the membership. It was necessary, he said, to take into account the importance and the contribution of all States. Otherwise, the Conference would not be capable of achieving its objectives, which could pose a great risk to the world.

During this part of the session, which began on 22 January, the Conference re-established five of its Ad Hoc Committees, dealing with chemical weapons, radiological weapons, negative security assurances, a nuclear-test ban and prevention of an arms race in outer space.

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The European Economic Community (EEC) today pledged over $2 million for immediate use in helping alleviate the plight of women and children in Iraq. The funds will be used by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to send emergency relief, including water-purification agents, drugs, vaccines, medical supplies and cold-chain equipment mostly from its warehouse in Copenhagen.

The first of the shipments will be dispatched tomorrow.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) reported today that, according to the latest government figures, there were almost 100,000 cases of cholera in Peru and that 609 people had died so far.

Following a visit to Peru, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, estimated that the cost of the epidemic would total $1 billion. He appealed for international assistance to the medical infrastructure and for strengthening water and sewage treatment facilities.

The UNDRO reported that it had so far received $5.3 million, excluding in-kind contributions and services, for which no value was indicated.

The agency also reported that 10 cases of cholera had been confirmed in the Colombian town of Tumaco. No deaths had occurred so far.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/858
1 April 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General seeks intensified efforts to find political solution to continued fighting in Afghanistan.

- Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari reports that Kuwait has made "remarkable progress" in dealing with immediate humanitarian needs.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today expressed deep concern about the continued fighting and loss of lives and devastation in Afghanistan.

In a statement made through his spokeswoman he said he had been following closely developments in Afghanistan, and in particular the recent events in Khost.

The Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to all Afghans to put their national interest above all other interests, to resolve their differences through a political process which would ensure the exercise of their right to self-determination and establish a broad-based government which would enjoy the confidence of the vast majority of the Afghan people.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar also appealed to all parties concerned to treat the prisoners of war in accordance with established international norms and allow the access of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He said the recent events in Khost emphasized the urgency to find a political settlement and should strengthen the resolve of the international community to intensify its efforts towards that end.

The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, who is currently in the area, is in contact with all parties concerned.

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For information media—not an official record

Kuwait had made "remarkable progress" in dealing with immediate humanitarian needs, according to a report by Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari to the Secretary-General on the situation in the country.

Mr. Ahtisaari reported that although Kuwait had suffered severe devastation and looting during Iraqi occupation, the country had made remarkable progress in meeting humanitarian needs and was moving swiftly towards reconstruction with the help of its friends and allies.

The Under-Secretary-General said the removal of explosives was one of the most urgent humanitarian needs facing the country as citizens continued to return home. Another area of major concern was the burning of oil wells and the impact on health, the environment and the economy. He reported that about half of Kuwait's oil wells, about 500 to 800, were set on fire by Iraqi forces and it was estimated that about 4 million to 6 million barrels of oil were literally going up in smoke each day.

Briefing correspondents on his report at Headquarters this morning, Mr. Ahtisaari stressed the conclusion by his team that the priority humanitarian needs in Kuwait involved environmental and health issues and mine/ordinance clearance. Citing an example of the mine problem, he said that on a three kilometre stretch of beach, some 6,000 mines had been detected.

Asked by correspondents about the possibility that Kuwaiti children might be relocated due to health concerns, Mr. Ahtisaari said that some 400,000 Kuwaitis residing abroad had been asked to delay their return, and the Government might provide other Kuwaitis with the opportunity to go abroad.

The Under-Secretary-General was designated by the Secretary-General in February to assess the humanitarian needs of Iraq and Kuwait, and has earlier reported to the Security Council on the humanitarian needs of Iraq.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/859
2 April 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses "grave concern" about reports of heavy fighting and bloodshed in both northern and southern Iraq.

- Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held next summer in Brazil, says focus must be on development.

- Draft urging study on investment promotion service to aid developing nations exploit mineral resources introduced in Natural Resources Committee.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today through his spokesman that he was "gravely concerned" about reports of heavy fighting and bloodshed in both northern and southern Iraq. He was particularly worried about the substantial increase in the number of Kurdish and Shi'ite refugees entering Iran and Turkey in the past few days.

On humanitarian grounds, the Secretary-General expressed the hope that maximum restraint be exercised and urged that the present situation be resolved peacefully without further loss of life.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General said today he had been informed that an intensive new phase in the negotiations on El Salvador was in the offing. This could include direct meetings in the first half of April, he said.

In other news today, the Security Council was scheduled to continue its consultations on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. A United Nations official drew attention to a new text of a draft resolution which was now circulating in the Council.

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(more)

For information media—not an official record

The primary emphasis of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held next summer in Brazil must be on development.

This view was stated by the Conference's Secretary-General, Maurice Strong, in an opening address at a preparatory meeting today in Geneva.

Reporting from Geneva, a United Nations press officer said Mr. Strong emphasized that this was not meant to downgrade the environmental dimension, but to recognize that it was through the development process that environment must be addressed. The Brazil meeting must adopt specific measures to change economic behaviour at the level of nations, individuals and industry, as well as changes in international economic relations, particularly between industrialized and developing countries, he said.

The press officer further reported that the Brazil Conference was expected to produce an "Earth Charter" -- a statement of environmental and development principles to govern international and national conduct towards the earth. The Charter would also include an agreed international work programme on major environment and development priorities for the period to the end of the century. The Conference -- to be attended by foreign leaders from more that 100 countries -- would also work towards agreement on providing money and technology to implement this programme.

The press officer noted that negotiations had already begun on conventions on climate change, and protecting all plant and animal species which may be signed in Brazil next year.

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The Committee on Natural Resources, currently meeting at Headquarters, this morning heard an introduction of a draft resolution proposing support for developing countries which are seeking aid in exploiting their mineral resources. Under the text, the Secretary-General would report on the feasibility of establishing an investment promotion service for such support within the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD).

The draft, sponsored by the "Group of 77" developing countries and introduced by the observer for Ghana, would have the Economic and Social Council request that the Secretary-General present a report to the Committee at its next session, in 1993, on methods for increasing financial flow and technology transfer to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms to help them optimize development of their mineral sectors.

The Committee also heard the introduction of a nine-power draft, under which member countries would be called upon by the Council to consider increasing their financial support to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

The text, introduced by Japan, would also welcome the first replenishment to the Fund from a project in the Philippines and note efforts taken to reduce the Fund's administrative costs.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/860
3 April 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Security Council votes to establish formal cease-fire to end Persian Gulf war as soon as Iraq notifies Council of its acceptance of provisions in nine-power resolution.

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The Security Council this afternoon voted to establish a formal cease-fire to end the Gulf war by adopting a nine-power resolution which provides for a formal truce only after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein agrees to be bound by all its provisions.

The resolution, sponsored by France, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States, was adopted by a vote of 12 in favour, 1 against (Cuba), with 2 abstentions (Yemen, Ecuador).

By the resolution, the Council demanded that the Iraqi Government respect the inviolability of the internationally recognized boundary between Iraq and Kuwait as agreed and signed by both countries in 1963.

The Council requested that a plan be submitted by the Secretary-General within three days after consultation with Iraq and Kuwait for the immediate deployment of a United Nations observer unit to monitor the demilitarized zone, extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait from the boundaries as agreed to in 1963.

Iraq was further requested by the resolution to destroy all chemical and biological weapons and all ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres and to agree to on-site inspections to ensure compliance. The resolution also called for a continued ban on all arms sales and military technology for the indefinite future, and an unconditional agreement by Iraq that it will not acquire or develop nuclear weapons or material for their production. In addition, the Council called on Iraq to compensate Kuwait for the damage it caused during the invasion and occupation, and called for the creation of a compensation fund and the establishment of a commission to monitor the fund.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council decided that Iraq be allowed to freely import food and promised rapid approval of requests to send other items for humanitarian purposes.

It further decided that Iraq should facilitate the repatriation of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and extend all necessary cooperation to the International Committee of the Red Cross in its search for such nationals still unaccounted for.

Finally, the Council asked Iraq to condemn unequivocally and renounce all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism.

In a related development, a United Nations official told correspondents today that Turkey had requested a meeting of the Security Council on the situation in northern Iraq. France was also following up its initiative of yesterday, 2 April, pressing for a resolution on that same issue, he said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/861
4 April 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council holds consultations to consider request by Turkey for Council meeting on "repressive situation in northern Iraq".

- Secretary-General sets up interdepartmental coordinating group to supervise implementation of Council resolution on Gulf war cease-fire.

- Secretary-General convenes meetings of representatives of United Nations agencies to prepare for emergency humanitarian relief programmes for Iraq and Kuwait.

- United Nations special mission to Kuwait says its report would be incomplete without testimony of Kuwaitis yet to return home.

- Secretary-General renews appeal for $104 million for Special Relief Programme for Angola.

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The Security Council held consultations late this afternoon on a request by Turkey for an immediate meeting to consider the repressive situation in northern Iraq.

The Council was also scheduled to hear a statement by the Secretary-General on the situation in El Salvador.

The Permanent Representative of Turkey, Mustafa Aksin, in a letter to the Council President, dated 2 April, said the prevailing situation in Iraq had caused 220,000 Iraqi citizens to gather along the Turkish border, in an attempt to flee Iraq. He said the Iraqi authorities were using an excessive amount of force, and called the repression against the civilian population "a threat to the region's peace and security".

Ambassador Aksin requested that a Council meeting be convened immediately to adopt the necessary measures to put an end to what he called "this inhuman repression being carried out on a massive scale".

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For information media—not an official record

Speaking to correspondents following the Council meeting yesterday, the Turkish Ambassador said his Government was in no position to cope with so many hundreds of thousands of people. In reply to a question, he said the policy of sealing off the border with Iraq was "going to be maintained for as long as it can". He said Turkey was conscious of the problems of the Iraqi civilians and was doing everything to assist them by providing food, medicines and other humanitarian assistance.

France, supported by the United Kingdom, has also appealed for action in the Council to address the fate of Kurds and Shi'ites in Iraq.

Also speaking to the press yesterday, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir David Hannay, called for action to stop the killing and harassment of women and children in the north of Iraq. He said his delegation would be working closely with the French delegation and others in the Council to provide a response to the "tragic situation".

Commenting on yesterday's cease-fire resolution, the Permanent Representative of the United States, Thomas R. Pickering, told the press that the Council expected to see an Iraqi reply shortly but that there was no time deadline. He said the Council would first wait for an Iraqi reaction to the Secretary-General's report, in three days, on a United Nations observer unit to monitor the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

Also talking to correspondents yesterday, Iraq's Permanent Representative Abdul Amir Al-Anbari said he believed resolution 687 (1991) was "the most outrageous violation of the United Nations Charter". He said the Council had by far exceeded its authority and had acted illegally. The Iraqi Ambassador said the resolution was so "one-sided" that it was going to "destabilize the region rather than introduce peace in it".

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General had decided to establish an interdepartmental coordinating group of senior United Nations officials to supervise and direct the implementation of the various provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The decision comes in response to yesterday's six-Power resolution by which the Secretary-General was asked to report to the Council on Iraqi compliance with its provisions.

The composition of the coordinating group is as follows: Virendra Dayal, Chef de Cabinet; Martti Ahtisaari, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management; Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs; Carl-August Fleischhauer, United Nations Legal Counsel; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs; Vasiliy S. Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs; Ronald I. Spiers, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services; Kofi A. Annan, Controller; and J. Richard Foran, Assistant Secretary-General for General Services.

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In the absence of the Secretary-General, Mr. Dayal would chair the meetings of the coordinating group, the official said.

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The Secretary-General's spokesman said today that Mr. Perez de Cuellar had convened meetings of representatives of United Nations agencies and programmes to prepare coordinated programmes of emergency humanitarian relief for Kuwait and Iraq. The meetings were analysing the findings of the mission led by Under-Secretary-General Ahtisaari. Based on the coordinated programmes, the Secretary-General was planning to make an urgent international appeal for funding early next week, the spokesman said.

The agencies and programmes attending the meetings, which were taking place today, tomorrow and over the weekend, all participated in the Ahtisaari mission, the spokesman added.

* * *

The United Nations special mission to Kuwait, led by former Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Abby Farah, has completed its present assignment and will leave Kuwait for New York later today.

The mandate of the mission was based on a request by the Kuwaiti Government to investigate loss of life and Iraqi practices against the civilian population during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

A United Nations official reported today that the mission, as it proceeded with its work, had become aware that many groups and individuals had yet to tell their story. It had succeeded in collecting useful information from various individuals and groups in Kuwait, which had been carefully recorded and would be reflected in its report. However, the official said, the large number of Kuwaitis who were either forcibly removed from the country or took refuge abroad during the occupation had yet to return to Kuwait. Any report which the mission might prepare at this stage would not be definitive and comprehensive if those individuals were denied the opportunity to present their testimony.

In order to ensure presentation of a credible and comprehensive report on the human rights element of the mission's mandate, he said, the Kuwaiti Government had sought assistance from the United Nations. The Secretary-General had already made arrangements with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to provide the services of an expert for that purpose.

* * *

The Secretary-General today renewed his appeal for immediate international assistance for the Special Relief Programme for Angola to help almost 2 million people who are under serious threat of starvation due to prolonged drought and civil war.

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The Secretary-General issued his first appeal for $104 million last November, to meet the most basic and urgent needs of the targeted population over a six-month period.

After a suspension for about four months in all the activities of the relief programme, agreement was reached on 11 March for its resumption.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/862
5 April 1991

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council condemns repression of Iraqi civilian population, including most recently in Kurdish populated areas, which it says threatens international peace and security in the region.

- UNHCR and Red Cross officials say more than $100 million is needed for refugees fleeing conflict in Iraq.

- Secretary-General tells Security Council that he intends to submit shortly a formal proposal to the Council on a United Nations verification mission in El Salvador.

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The Security Council in a formal meeting late this afternoon voted to condemn the repression of the Iraqi civilian population in many parts of Iraq, including most recently in Kurdish populated areas, the consequences of which it said threatened international peace and security in the region.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 10 in favour to 3 against (Cuba, Yemen and Zimbabwe), with 2 abstenstions (China and India).

By the resolution, sponsored by Belgium, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, the Council expressed grave concern about the massive flow of refugees towards and across international frontiers.

It demanded that Iraq contribute to removing the threat to regional peace and security by immediately ending the repression. It expressed hope that an open dialogue would take place to ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens were respected.

The Council further called on Iraq to allow immediate access by international humanitarian organizations to all those in need of assistance in all parts of the country. It requested the Secretary-General to pursue his humanitarian efforts in Iraq and to report forthwith, if appropriate on the basis of a further mission to the region. It requested further that the Secretary-General use all the resources at his disposal, including those of

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For information media—not an official record

the relevant United Nations agencies, to address urgently the critical needs of the refugees and displaced Iraqi population.

In related news, Iran has informed the United Nations that so far more than 110,000 Iraqi civilians have crossed the border between the two countries, including more than 45,000 in the north. In a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday, Iranian Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi said about 500,000 Iraqis were expected to arrive within the next few days. He said hundreds of thousands of citizens were crossing by car into Iran on the only paved road, while thousands of others were trying to escape on foot through the mountains, under what he described as "heart-breaking conditions".

The Iranian Ambassador said the border remained open but that the influx of refugees was causing tension and chaos along the borders. He said the "magnitude of the suffering of the Iraqi refugees, its international character and its consequences for regional peace and security" made a concerted international reaction by the Security Council "a political and humanitarian imperative".

In other communications, Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari said in a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday that Iraq had invited all citizens fleeing the country to return home under conditions of "full security and dignity". He said Iraq was prepared to cooperate with any third party in this connection.

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United Nations officials estimate that more than $100 million is needed to provide supplementary facilities for refugees fleeing the conflict in Iraq.

Reporting from Geneva, a United Nations press officer said today that officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told journalists that contingency plans were being made to help 400,000 people in Iran and Turkey. An estimated 70,000 refugees were now being helped in Iran, the officials said, and it was anticipated that arrivals there could reach 10,000 a day. They said the Turkish Government had given assurances that it would open the border with Iraq to admit the thousands of people massing there.

In a related development, the Red Cross has noted with deep concern the worsening plight of civilians throughout Iraq, where it said the health and sanitation situation have reached catastrophic proportions. Epidemics were breaking out because of the lack of clean drinking water and children were dying within hours from diarrhoea, the Committee said.

In other news, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has donated $250,000 from its Emergency Reserve Fund to provide help for women and children fleeing from Iraq into Turkey. The UNICEF said the number of refugees was expected to escalate dramatically as a result of an intensification of hostilities and improvement in weather conditions.

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In a separate development, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the Security Council yesterday that he intends to submit shortly a formal proposal to the Council on a United Nations verification mission in El Salvador.

The establishment of such a mission, he said, would be the initial component of a United Nations operation to overlook the cease-fire between the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

The Secretary-General said he would be reporting to the Council about progress in the forthcoming negotiations between the parties in El Salvador.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/863
8 April 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General presents report to Security Council on United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) to be sent to demilitarized zone between the two countries.

- Iraq notifies United Nations of its acceptance of Security Council resolution 687 on permanent cease-fire.

- Committee on Natural Resources concludes twelfth session by approving seven more draft resolutions and two draft decisions to be approved by Economic and Social Council.

* * *

The Security Council held consultations this evening during which it considered a report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the establishment of a United Nations Observation Mission to monitor the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

In a resolution adopted by the Council last Wednesday setting conditions for a formal cease-fire in the Gulf conflict, the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary plans for such an operation, to be known as the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).

In his report, the Secretary-General said that for UNIKOM to be effective, it must have at all times its confidence and backing of the Council. It would have to be given the necessary cooperation of the parties, and would have to function as an integrated and efficient military unit. Adequate financial arrangements would have to be made to cover its costs.

The purpose of the mission would be "to monitor the Khor Abdullah and a demilitarized zone extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait", based on borders established between the two countries, under a 1963 agreement. The demilitarizated zone is about 200 kilomtres long, the Khor Abdullah, about 40 kilometres.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General recommends an initial group of 300 military observers, supported by five infantry companies drawn from existing peacekeeping operations in the region. With other units, the maximum initial strength of UNIKOM would be 1,440 all ranks.

The Secretary-General reported that the cost of the start-up and first six months of the operation were estimated at some $83 million. The cost of continuing UNIKOM for the following six months would be about $40 million. The Security Council consultations on the Secretary-General's report will continue tomorrow.

Replying to questions from news correspondents, the Secretary-General commented this morning on the deployment of UNIKOM. He said he hoped the Security Council would decide to dispatch the force as soon as possible on the basis of his recommendations. He said he expected that it would be made up of representatives of the Council's five permanent members -- China, France, the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom -- together with other countries from different regions.

With regard to the problem of Iraqi refugees currently gathering on Iran's and Turkey's borders, the Secretary-General said that the proposal by the Turkish President to create "a United Nations area" within Iraq would raise the problem of sovereignty and would be complicated.

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Iraq has formally notified the United Nations of its acceptance of Security Council resolution 687 which set the terms for a permanent cease-fire to end the conflict in the Persian Gulf. Among other things, that resolution called on Iraq to accept a 1963 border agreement with Kuwait, to agree to compensate Kuwait for the damage it caused during the invasion and occupation, and to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

In a letter dated 6 April to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein said that although his Government viewed the resolution as unfair and biased, it had no choice but to accept it. He said a "good number" of the provisions of the resolution "impaired Iraq's sovereignty"; the resolution "constituted an unprecedented assault on ... sovereignty, and the rights that stem therefrom, embodied in the Charter and in international law and practice".

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The United Nations Committee on Natural Resources ended its latest session, on Friday, by approving seven more draft resolutions and two draft decisions which will go to the Economic and Social Council for action later this year.

During its nine-day biennial session, the Committee gave priority consideration to issues concerned with energy resources. Members of the Committee discussed, among other things, the pressing need for achieving

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sustainable development, environmental concerns affecting the exploitation of natural resources and the responsibility of developed countries to share technology, funds and human resources with developing countries.

Speakers stressed that the war in the Gulf region had highlighted the need for increased attention to energy issues and called for more efficient use of energy.

In the debate on water resources, Committee members drew attention to the increasing use of water as a political tool in the Gulf region. The failure of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990) to achieve its aims was also stressed.

In a concluding statement, the Chairman, Francis Eric Aguilar-Hecht (Guatemala), said that while the issues before the Committee were attracting increasing interest, the Committee itself was receiving decreasing attention. He hoped the present spirit of cooperation and renewal would help the Committee overcome that trend.

The Committee was created in 1970 by the Economic and Social Council to deal with issues regarding the exploration, development and management of energy, mineral and water resources. It meets every two years and will convene again in 1993 in New York.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/864
9 April 1991

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council unanimously agrees on modalities for United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission in accordance with Secretary-General's recommendation.

- Secretary-General appoints Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan to coordinate United Nations relief programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Turkish and Iranian border areas; appoints also Eric Suy to lead United Nations mission to estimate needs of refugees in northern Iraq.

- World Health Organization appeals for $4.1 million for emergency health assistance to Kuwait.

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The Security Council this afternoon unanimously adopted a resolution setting the modalities for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) to be sent to the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

Such an operation was called for in the Council's resolution 687, adopted on 3 April, setting terms for a formal cease-fire in the Gulf conflict.

The mission, to consist eventually of up to 1,440 armed and unarmed military personnel provided by Member States, will monitor the Khor Abdullah waterway as well as a 200-kilometre-long demilitarized zone. It will also aim to deter boundary violations and observe any hostile or potentially hostile actions, using force only in self-defence. The mission will cost an estimated $83 million for the first six months, to be borne by Member States through special assessments.

The Governments of Iraq and Kuwait had both indicated their acceptance of the Secretary-General's plan. They will be relied upon to cooperate fully with the Mission in granting freedom of movement, requiring all traffic in the zone to be routed past Mission observation posts and limiting their citizens' right to bear arms in the zone.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today announced the appointment of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as his Executive Delegate to coordinate a United Nations inter-agency humanitarian programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Turkish and Iranian border areas.

Prince Sadruddin was the High Commissioner for Refugees from 1966 to 1978, and shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he was named by the Secretary-General to mobilize multinational humanitarian assistance to the area, a post from which he resigned about two months ago.

A United Nations official told correspondents today that Prince Sadruddin would be a "catalyst" to highlight humanitarian needs, and stimulate a generous response from the international community. He would keep the Secretary-General informed about humanitarian issues relating to the Gulf crisis by constant monitoring and reporting.

In a separate development, Iraq has protested against the dropping of relief supplies to Iraqi civilians by the United States and the United Kingdom, calling the action an infringement on national sovereignty. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein said the air operations constituted direct interference in the internal affairs of Iraq. The relief should have been provided through the Iraqi authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent.

Meanwhile, Japan has informed the United Nations that it has donated $10 million to provide emergency relief to Kurdish and other displaced persons from Iraq. The announcement followed an appeal by the United Nations Disaster Relief Office.

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In a further development related to the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, the Secretary-General today appointed Eric Suy, a national of Belgium, to lead a United Nations mission to estimate the humanitarian needs of the refugees currently trapped in northern Iraq.

A former Legal Counsel of the United Nations and the former Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Suy is currently serving as Counsellor to the Foreign Minister of Belgium.

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar told news correspondents today the mission would have to go to Turkey and Iran as well, and he hoped that it would be under way before the end of this week. The Secretary-General said he was ready to implement any resolution that the Security Council may adopt on the situation of the Kurds in northern Iraq as he was particularly concerned about their situation. Asked about the possible creation of a "safe haven" or an "enclave" for the Kurds and Shi'ites in Iraq, the Secretary-General said the 1948 Geneva Convention on Genocide was being used in current discussions in the Council as a basis to justify the creation of such an "enclave".

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The World Health Organization (WHO) today launched an appeal for $4.1 million to finance a three-month emergency health plan for war-damaged Kuwait. The plan was drawn up by the Kuwait Ministry for Public Health and a WHO mission which has just returned to Geneva.

According to a United Nations press officer in Geneva, the WHO Director-General, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, said the emergency plan was aimed at helping Kuwait to meet the dual challenge of rehabilitating its health-care system and of conquering the daunting threats posed by air, sea and water pollution and by the widespread presence in the country of land mines and other explosives.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/865
10 April 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Iran calls for help from international community to deal with 1 million Iraqi refugees crossing its border.

- International Committee of Red Cross mobilizes resources to provide shelter, food and medical care for about 200,000 Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

- Commission begins review of financial and development issues related to activities of transnational corporations.

- Twenty-nine countries pledge about $17 million in cash and kind for regional institutions and 1991 work programme of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

* * *

The Government of Iran has informed the United Nations that as of last Monday, more than 771,000 Iraqi refugees have crossed over the border, and the numbers were increasing steadily, with over 1 million expected by the end of this week.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 8 April, Iranian Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi described the situation as "desperate". He said his Government was keeping the borders open and had nearly quadrupled the emergency budget to deal with the crisis from over $14 million to over $57 million. He called on the international community for help, saying the problem was so "tremendous" that the host country alone would not be able to cope with the speed of the influx and the provision of decent emergency living condition for such large number of people.

Meanwhile, Iraq has informed the United Nations of its decision to issue a "pardon" to the Kurds, and has described last Friday's Security Council resolution, which condemns Iraq for the repression of its civilian population and calling for humanitarian assistance, as "biased and full of double standards". In a letter to the Secretary-General and the President of the Council, dated 8 April, Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari said it was a

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paradox that the Council should listen to Turkey and Iran on the situation of the Kurds, while both countries refused to recognize the rights of the Kurdish population.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has informed the United Nations that it is mobilizing the resources needed to provide shelter, food and medical care for about 200,000 Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

The Committee said that as soon as large numbers of Kurdish refugees started arriving in the area, it had -- in cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent -- sent in consignments of tents, food and medicines. It said other supplies, already stocked in Iran, on the border between Iraq and Syria, and in Cyprus, were being transferred to the region and would initially provide shelter for 120,000 refugees.

The ICRC said it had asked about 20 national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for help in setting up an airlift between Europe and northern Iran; transport aircraft were currently taking in blankets, food, clothing and medicines.

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Increasing the transfer of financial resources and technology to developing countries was one of the topics discussed today, as the Commission on Transnational Corporations began its seventeenth session in New York. The Commission also reviewed competition in world markets and the volume and direction of foreign direct investment flows.

In an opening statement, the newly elected Commission Chairman, Jose Maria Borbon (Costa Rica), said the Commission was an ideal forum to work out formulas for fair negotiations between developing countries and transnational corporations. It must also consider the ramifications of the debt problems, parameters to stimulate foreign investment, and the relationship between transnational corporations and the environment.

The United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Antoine Blanca, told the Commission the developing countries faced a number of challenges, including large negative transfers due to debt-servicing. The role of transnational corporations in the development of human resources and of entrepreneurship should be important subjects of discussion. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, Peter Hansen, described recent trends in the flow of foreign direct investment. He cautioned that moves towards "globalization" largely reflected international investment between corporations in the "triad" of the United States, Japan and the European Community. The majority of investment that went to developing countries was centred in only 10 nations.

The Commission will be assisted during its eight-day session by a panel of 12 expert advisers.

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Twenty-nine countries have pledged some $17 million in cash and kind for regional institutions in India, Indonesia and Japan, and the work programme of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for this year.

The pledges were made at ESCAP's forty-seventh session in Seoul, during which ESCAP also accepted China's offer to host its 1992 session in Bejing. The decision is subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and endorsement by the General Assembly.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/866
11 April 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General to coordinate United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Turkish and Iranian border areas appeals for $423 million for regional emergency plan to alleviate "desperate" condition of Iraqi refugees.

- Security Council holds consultations to prepare reply to Iraq concerning resolution setting terms for formal cease-fire.

- Secretary-General announces appointment of Chief Military Observer of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission.

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The Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General to coordinate the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Turkish and Iranian border areas, Sadruddin Aga Khan, today appealed for about $423 million to cover new financial requirements for the emergency programme for refugees in Iran and Turkey.

Briefing correspondents in Geneva, the Executive Delegate said all aid to the affected population had to be "objective" and "impartial" in order not to "politicize developments". He stressed the importance of a unified United Nations approach to address the various problems concerning the refugees.

Regarding immediate humanitarian solutions as far as the Kurds were concerned, he said a "safe haven" might be seen as being "apolitical", but the problem was where to put the people and how to deal with their needs. "One could not have another Gaza Strip in the province of Kurdistan", he added.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to prepare a reply to Iraq concerning its acceptance of the resolution setting the conditions for a formal cease-fire in the Persian Gulf, adopted by the Council on 3 April.

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After expressing reservation about the terms set in the resolution, Iraq said in its reply to the Council, dated 6 April, that it had no choice but to accept the resolution.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has announced the appointment of Major-General Gunther Greindl of Austria as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) established by the Security Council to monitor the demilitarized zone between the two countries.

Major-General Greindl has previously served in two United Nations peace-keeping forces. From 1977 to 1978, he served as Chief Operations Officer of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and, from 1981 to 1989, was the Force Commander.

In 1979, he was appointed Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), stationed on the Syrian-Israeli border.

At the time of his appointment to UNIKOM, General Greindl was the Austrian Military Attache to Switzerland.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/867
12 April 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Advance team of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission due to arrive in Kuwait.

◆ Security Council President announces that formal cease-fire is effective in Persian Gulf conflict.

◆ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) secures pledges of enough emergency food aid for all refugees in Turkey and Iran for up to 30 days.

◆ Secretary-General reiterates call for meeting of High Contracting Parties of 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention on protection of civilians in time of war, as a way to guarantee protection of Palestinians in occupied territories.

◆ Human Rights Committee, ending forty-first session, calls on Iraq to submit "without further delay" report on human rights situation in that country.

◆ Secretary-General to travel to France for meeting of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and to address European Parliament.

◆ Talks between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) reported to be proceeding intensively.

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A United Nations official told correspondents today that an advance team of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) to travel to the region had been assembled in Cyprus by the Chief Military Observer, Major-General Gunther Greindl. There had been delays. General Greindl and his team were now in Amman and were due to arrive in Kuwait City tomorrow morning, 13 April.

The official said the team was about 30-strong, including military and political advisers, logistics personnel and administrative staff. General Greindl would confer with goverament authorities in Kuwait City, after which

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he would travel to Baghdad for similar consultations with Iraqi government officials.

On humanitarian efforts, the United Nations official said the mission, led by Eric Suy, had left London this morning for Amman, and would travel to Baghdad tomorrow. Another mission, led by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, was expected to arrive in Baghdad on Sunday, 14 April.

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The Security Council last night formally accepted Iraq's communication of 6 April, in which Iraqi Ambassador Al-Anbari said his country had no choice but to accept the Council's resolution setting the terms for a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf.

In a statement on behalf of its members, Council President Paul Noterdaeme of Belgium said the Iraqi Ambassador had confirmed his Government's "irrevocable and unqualified acceptance" of resolution 687 (1991).

He said Council members had accordingly asked him to note that the conditions established in the resolution had been met, and that the formal cease-fire was effective.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it has secured pledges of enough emergency food aid to feed all Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Iran for up to 30 days. It said that most of the food would be in Turkey and Iran in the next two days.

In a press release issued today, WFP Executive Director James Ingram said a "huge effort" was still required to get the food to the border areas. The WFP emergency operations covered airlifts, cross-border truck convoys and the arrival of ships.

In a related development, the Government of Iran says the influx of Iraqi refugees has "surpassed all estimates and preparations, and has reached and indeed passed dangerous levels, jeopardizing the lives of tens of thousands of innocent human beings". In a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said that so far about 900,000 Iraqis had crossed the border with Iran. He said even if the "negligible" international assistance so far received were to be increased, it was highly unlikely that any degree of local effort and international relief aid could meet the most primary requirements of "the wounded, sick, hungry and cold-stricken" refugees and "prevent the unfolding tragedy".

The Foreign Minister called for the voluntary repatriation of the refugees back to Iraq under the supervision of the United Nations.

The 12 member States of the European Economic Community (EEC) have informed the United Nations of their donation of $185 million in special assistance to refugees and displaced Iraqis, particularly Kurds.

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In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Ambassador of Luxembourg, Jean Feyder, current Chairman of the European Council, said the grant had been given in view of the urgency and magnitude of the problem. He said a programme of special assistance had been launched in close cooperation with the competent international humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has repeated his call for a meeting of the High Contracting Parties of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war, as a way to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In a report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General said that during the period under review, from 20 December to 28 February, Israel continued to violate the Fourth Geneva Convention by which it was bound to protect the Palestinian population. He cited the continuation of such practices as deportations, administrative detentions and collective punishments, such as closure of schools and demolition of homes.

The Secretary-General said the Gulf crisis was economically "devastating" to the occupied territories, and politically Palestinian support for the Iraqis had led to increased tension for which the Palestinians paid a price. Although Israel had the right to self-defense and security measures, the report continues, it did not undertake adequate civil defense precautions on behalf of the Palestinians, and the imposed curfew caused "undue hardship".

The Secretary-General said that in the absence of a decision by Israel to fully apply the Convention's provisions, a meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention could enhance the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

The report is based on observations made by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Jean-Claude Aimé, who visited the area last month.

* * *

The United Nations Human Rights Committee today ended a three-week session in New York during which it discussed, among other things, the protection of human rights of citizens of Hong Kong after the territory is transferred to China in 1997, and human rights violations following the 1989 United States intervention of Panama.

The 18-member expert body, which is charged with monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also discussed emergency regulations being employed by the Governments of India, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom to combat terrorism. Concern was expressed over the treatment by Sweden of drug addicts and alcoholics as well as the handling by Panama of cases of AIDS.

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At its meeting yesterday, the Committee decided to request Iraq to submit by 15 June a report on the human rights situation in the country covering, in particular, its observance of the provisions of the Covenant relating to right to life and liberty, prohibition of torture and the right of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities to enjoy their culture, practice their religion and use their language.

The Committee said that, "taking into consideration recent and current events affecting the situation of human rights", it wished to receive Iraq's third periodic report (due since April last year) in time for discussion at the Committee's next session in July.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar leaves New York at the weekend for a week of official engagements in Europe. During a visit to France, he will preside over the regular spring session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in Paris from Wednesday until Friday. On Tuesday, he will address the European Parliament in Strasbourg. He is also to receive an honorary law degree from Bordeaux University.

* * *

A United Nations official announced today that talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion National (FMLN), under way in Mexico City, were proceeding intensively. He said the talks, initiated on 4 April, were concentrating on the armed forces, constitutional reform and cease-fire arrangements.

The Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Alvaro De Soto, and Under-Secretary-General of Special Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, were both conducting talks on cease-fire arrangements. After a weekend recess, the talks resume on Monday.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/868
15 April 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General announces 34-nation composition of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission to monitor border area between the two countries.

- Secretary-General calls on captors of two Swedish nationals in Kashmir to release them "immediately and unharmed".

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says relief supplies already on ground in northern Iraq are "only a drop in the bucket" compared to what refugees will need.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has announced that 34 nations, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, will contribute forces to the 1,440-member United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in the Persian Gulf.

In a letter to Security Council President Paul Noterdaeme of Belgium, dated 11 April, the Secretary-General said he intended "to proceed without delay" in the deployment of the force.

An advance 30-man team, led by Major-General Gunther Greindl of Austria, has been in the area since Saturday.

In addition to the five permanent Council members, the countries that have volunteered to send contingents to the Iraq-Kuwait border are: Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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The Secretary-General said today through his spokeswoman that he was deeply concerned by the threats issued by the captors of two Swedish

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nationals, Johan Jansson and Jan Ole Loman, who were kidnapped in Kashmir on 31 March.

The Secretary-General said he deplored violence and human suffering of any kind and, in this connection, believed that no aim could be furthered by the taking of innocent hostages. He called on the captors to release Mr. Jansson and Mr. Loman "immediately and unharmed".

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said today, in an update on the refugee situation in northern Iraq, that so far donor nations had pledged some $22 million in cash and several million more in "in-kind" contributions. All funds were already obligated and all in-kind contributions already distributed.

The agency believed, however, that the relief supplies already on the ground, or in the relief pipeline, constituted "only a drop in the bucket" compared to what the refugees would need. The number of Iraqis massed along the Turkish border had grown to an estimated 600,000, with another 900,000 people seeking sanctuary in Iran, the agency said.

The High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, was currently visiting refugee camps in Iran and Turkey to further assess the needs of the nations most directly affected by the current crisis, UNHCR said. Mrs. Ogata had yesterday presented a cheque for $2 million to the Iranian authorities to assist them in dealing with the refugees.

The UNHCR said it would begin tomorrow an emergency airlift of supplies to Iran and Turkey. Some 36 aircraft loaded with $2.5 million worth of supplies were scheduled to take off from Pakistan, Egypt and Europe through 28 April. The cost of the emergency operation, including transport, was expected to total $4 million, the agency said.

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